

Owe no one
anything,



EXCEPT TO LOVE
ONE another.

Romans 13:8, NRSV

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship

Sept. 10, 2023

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
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Welcome! True greatness is not self-sufficient strength but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, “you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,” but whoever is humbled like a little child will be “the greatest in the kingdom of heaven,” (Matt. 18:3–4). Though in our sin we deserve to be “drowned in the depth of the sea,” (Matt. 18:6) we have instead been buried with Christ in Baptism and raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, so that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7–9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which “is the fulfilling of the law,” (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we “pay to all what is owed to them,” (Rom. 13:7) and we “owe no one anything, except to love each other,” (Rom. 13:8).

+ Order of Worship +

Hymn

“Father Welcomes”

605

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Versicles

P: This is the day that the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised!

P: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.

C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

P: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord,

C: Teach me Your paths.

P: Sanctify us in Your truth.

C: Your Word is truth.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised!

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Praise the Almighty”

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Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore, one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1-20

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!



And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsory

P: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

The Ten Commandments

C: You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or his maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Apostles' Creed

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Children's Sermon

Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend”

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Sermon

Bibles to Third-graders

Installation of Church officers and teachers

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the holy Christian church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather, and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the Holy Spirit to grant holy desires, good counsels and just works that we may live in peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those in distress of mind, body or soul, for the sick and the dying, and all those who have requested our prayers, including _____, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: *(Other petitions)* Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our mind on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through the same Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Collect for the Word

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear, read, mark and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

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 in 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.

Blessing

P: The almighty and merciful Lord,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

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