

27 September 2020. 10:30 AM.
17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Concordia

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
725 Truxton Drive, Kingsport, TN.

concordiakingsport.org

God has named us *Children of
God* in our Baptism,
in whom we now “*shine as
lights in the world*”

Phil. 2:15

Readings

Old Testament/Ezekiel 18:1-32. Epistles/Philippians 2:1–41. Gospel/Matthew 21:23–32.
The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God

- The way of the Lord is righteous and just: “*the soul who sins shall die*” (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has “*no pleasure in the death of anyone*” (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, “*shall surely live; he shall not die*” (Ezek. 18:28).
- This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, “*he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death*” (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, “*God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name*” (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now “*shine as lights in the world*” (Phil. 2:15).
- He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even “*the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God*” (Matt. 21:31–32).

Stewardship

**Ephesians 3:14-15 – “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.”**

We have a Father in heaven. He cares for us. He knows how to give us all good things. This knowledge frees us from worry and anxiety. Jesus returned to this theme again and again, and we should take Him at His Word.

Our Father will care for us, so we can be secure in generosity and faithful living.

Sermon Notes

Discipleship Leading to Evangelism

Rejoice in the Gospel! Embrace the **Divine Service** in which God Himself serves you! It is the very vehicle of our God's most blessed means of grace!

- The 1973 Lutheran Hymnal says of the Worship Liturgy, “**God speaks and we listen.**” Only when we have been washed of our putrid sins can we respond to God in praise and thanksgiving. Unless and until God cleanses us and brings us unto Himself, our hearts are nowhere near Him.

So if you want to emphasize that dimension of worship that brings us to God, remember that we do not move ourselves toward God. He comes to us. And He does that according to His promises: Word and Sacrament. That is how He is with us, even unto the end of the age. It is good and right to desire to be close to God. But don't imagine that you can do that alone! Be still and let God work in you, for you.

- Lift up the cup of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord - but don't forget the cup: Christ paying in full the price of your sin!
- Remember your Baptism: you are an adopted, beloved Child of God. Spread the Word.
- Listen to the pastor proclaim Father, Son and Holy Spirit and promises forgiveness of sin (a proclamation that rings out in heaven!),
- Feast upon our Lord's precious body and blood. There God draws close to you. There you recline on the breast of our dear Lord, as John the beloved disciple did on Maundy Thursday.

Prayer of the Church. Seventeenth 2020 Sept 27. Hand Out. Draft #1. 2020 Sept 27.

Hand Out. Draft #1. Sunday after Pentecost. 27 September 2020

O Lord, we are Your people, chosen by Your grace to be Your own possession, and granted mercy upon mercy. Hear Your people who cry to You in need, and remember us according to the favor You have shown to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Make us to know Your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in the path of salvation made known in Your Word. Hear our complaints and quiet them by Your merciful deliverance, that we may respond with trust and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage us, O Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, that we may not lose heart but, being of one mind and one will, may serve You with gladness, doing the works of Your Kingdom and speaking Your Word of witness throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, O Lord, to hold fast to Your Word and bless us with faithful pastors who will preach and teach Your eternal Gospel, that we may rejoice in doing Your will. Guide those considering church-work vocations, and bless them as they are formed for Your service. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine Your light upon us, O Lord, that we may do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our nation. Bless Donald, our president; Bill, our governor; and all those elected and appointed to make, administer and judge our laws. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enlighten us with godly knowledge and wisdom, O Lord, and bless those who pursue science to improve our lives and the lives of those in greatest need. Bless all honorable vocations and all honest labor, and lead the unemployed to good jobs and noble work not only for their own interests but for the good of us all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us Your compassion, O Lord, and in Your mercy grant healing, comfort and peace to all those who suffer. Deliver them from all their afflictions, pain, sorrow and fear. We especially pray for _____ and all those we name in our hearts before You. *[Brief silence]* Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide us, O Lord, that with all our hearts, minds, bodies and resources we may serve You. Give special blessing to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and to the many ways they bring the good news of Your salvation and the works of Your love across our nation and world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unite us, O Lord, that we may be of one mind and one will in doctrine, witness and service. Bless us as we come at Your bidding to receive the body and blood of Your Son at His table. Grant that what we receive in this Holy Communion we may keep in holy hearts and holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, O Lord, to remember the faithful who loved and served You and who now rest from their labors. Bring us with them to that most blessed day when together we shall dwell in Your presence on high forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all good things needful for this body and life and profitable for our salvation, and keep from us all things harmful, that sustained in time of want and guarded in time of prosperity, we may endure to the day of our Lord's coming and be judged worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**