**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“Completely Dependent”

September 6, 2020

**AS WE GATHER**

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus’ disciples asked. Our Lord responded by welcoming a child into His midst. “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Children are highly valued by our gracious God because they are completely dependent. On their own, they have nothing, yet they need everything. This is true for all of us in our relationship with God! On our own, we have only our sinful, broken lives and are unable to please God and fulfill His commands. Yet, in Jesus Christ, we possess everything we need! Forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of life forever with God are freely given to those who turn from their sin and receive the forgiveness earned by our crucified and risen Savior. In Jesus, we are, like children, completely dependent. We have nothing to offer, yet everything we need is ours to receive from the gracious hands of our Savior.

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN** “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” [*LSB* 902]

1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;

Our hearts in true devotion bow.

Your Spirit send with light divine,

And let Your truth within us shine.

2 Unseal our lips to sing Your praise

In endless hymns through all our days.

Increase our faith and light our minds;

And set us free from doubt that blinds.

3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry,

"O holy, holy Lord Most High!"

And in the light of that blest place

We then shall see You face to face.

4 All glory to the Father, Son,

And Holy Spirit, Three in One!

To You, O blessed Trinity,

Be praise throughout eternity!

**PLEASE STAND**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 92:1–2*

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**People: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

Pastor: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

**People: and Your faithfulness by night.**

Pastor: The Most High God gathers us to praise His name and declare His love together!

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 32:1*

Pastor: Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Hear us now as we, Your humble children, bring our prayers before You.

***In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.***

Pastor: Most merciful Father,

**People: we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.**

Pastor: “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” God the Father has taken your sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ’s sacrifice, God does not count your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers you as His child forever! As an ***ordained*** 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.

**People: Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 51:10–12*

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**People: and renew a right spirit within me.**

Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,

**People: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
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.**

**KYRIE** (*p. 204\_ in hymnal*) (may be sung once or several times in response to various petitions.)

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

**HYMN OF PRAISE: GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (*p. 204\_\_\_ in hymnal*)

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;

Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!

We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing—

Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;

O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,

Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—

For You alone are holy, You only are the Lord.

Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;

You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,

In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
O God, our gracious and loving Father, we are Your dependent children. Although we in no way deserve Your goodness, You freely offer Your grace to all who turn to You.

**People: Grant us faith to trust in Your Son, who humbled Himself for our salvation.**

Pastor: We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

***PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE READINGS***

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Ezekiel 33:7–9*

7 “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. 8 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. 9 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

***PLEASE JOIN TOGETHER IN THE GRADUAL***

**GRADUAL**

Pastor: Fear the Lord, you His saints,  
 for those who fear Him lack nothing!

**People: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
 but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 13:1–10* (Love is the fulfilling of the law.)

13 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. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 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, 4 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. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 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.

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 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.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELLUIA VERSE** *Matthew 5:3*

Pastor: Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

***PLEASE STAND FOR THE GOSPEL LESSON***

**HOLY GOSPEL:** *Matthew 18:1–20* (Jesus calls the children of God to humility and repentance.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 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.

7 “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! 8 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. 9 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.

10 “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. 12 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? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

15 “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. 16 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. 17 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. 18 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. 19 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. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

***BE SEATED***

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “**EARTH AND ALL STARS” [*LSB* 817]

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Oh, victory! Loud shouting army!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

2 Hail, wind and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Flowers and trees! Loud rustling dry leaves!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

3 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellows!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

4 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Limestone and beams, Loud building workers

Sing to the Lord a new song!

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Athlete and band, Loud cheering people

Sing to the Lord a new song!

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

6 Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Daughter and son, Loud praying members

Sing to the Lord a new song!

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

7 Children of God, Dying and rising,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Heaven and earth, Hosts everlasting,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

He has done marvelous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

**SERMON**

***PLEASE RISE AND CONFESS OUR FAITH IN THE NICENE CREED***

**CREED** ***Nicene Creed: People*: I believe in one God,**

**the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth**

**and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the only-begotten Son of God,**

**begotten of His Father before all worlds,**

**God of God, Light of Light,**

**very God of very God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**being of one substance with the Father,**

**by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary**

**and was made man;**

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures**

**and ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,**

**whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.  
For all the children of God, the Holy Christian Church, that we proclaim the salvation of Christ wherever we are and to whomever we meet, *let us pray to the Lord.*

**People: Father, we depend on YOU as we share the Good News.**

Pastor: For the living out of our vocations, that no matter our station in life or what calling we have been given, that we faithfully represent our Savior with lives of humility and faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Father, we depend on You as we serve You with our lives.**

Pastor: For all children, that they grow daily in the wisdom of the Lord, and for all parents and those who work to care for children, that they be guided in their important service of love, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Father, we depend on You as we live as Your children.**

Pastor: For all public servants who selflessly serve others, both those who serve locally and those in positions throughout the world, that they would entrust their lives into the protecting care of their Maker, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Father, we depend on You for Your protection.**

Pastor: For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, [*especially* . . .], that they with patience and faith receive the healing care You offer, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Father, we depend on You for Your healing touch.**

Pastor: For these concerns and for every unspoken prayer that is on our hearts and minds, that our gracious God would hear and answer us, let us pray to the Lord,

**People: Father, we depend on You for everything. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**OFFERING: THERE IS AN OFFERING PLATE AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH FOR YOUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** (*p. 956\_\_\_ in hymnal*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence;

and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;

and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

***PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE***

**PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. As Your dependent children, we have nothing to offer to make ourselves right with You. Yet, in the cleansing blood of Jesus, we receive Your mercy and forgiveness, full and free. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** (*p. 208\_\_\_ in hymnal*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of Sab-a-oth a-dored;

Heav’n and earth with full ac-claim

shout the glory of your name.

Sing ho-san-na in the high-est,

sing ho-san-na to the Lord;

Tru-ly blest is He who comes

in the name of the Lord!

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and to be our Savior. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and lead us by Your Holy Spirit. Give us humility and faith to receive the remission of our sins freely offered to us in His body and blood. With dependence upon You and gratitude in our hearts, we praise You, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**  *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”  
  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

***PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST***

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** **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.**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** (*p. 210\_\_\_ in hymnal*)

O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a-way;

O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

Have mer-cy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a-way;

Have mer-cy on us, Je-sus Christ,

And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:**

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” [*LSB* 623]

1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray

That we may feast on You today;

Beneath these forms of bread and wine

Enrich us with Your grace divine.

2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,

Your body broken and Your blood,

The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,

The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

3 By faith Your Word has made us bold

To seize the gift of love retold;

All that You are we here receive,

And all we are to You we give.

4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,

Rejoicing in our unity,

Proclaim Your love until You come

To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:

O keep us steadfast till that day

When each will be Your welcomed guest

In heaven's high and holy feast.

“What is This Bread” [*LSB* 629]

What is this bread?

Christ's body risen from the dead:

This bread we break,

This life we take,

Was crushed to pay for our release.

Oh, taste and see

The Lord is peace.

What is this wine?

The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace

Brings His embrace

Of life and love until I sing!

Oh, taste and see

The Lord is King

So who am I,

That I should live and He should and He should die

Under the rod.

My God, my God,

Why have You not forsaken me?

Oh, taste and see

The Lord is free.

Yet is God here?

Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear.

In mouth and soul

He makes us whole

Christ, truly present in this meal.

Oh, taste and see

The Lord is real.

Is this for me?

I am forgiven and set free!

I do believe

That I receive

His very body and His blood.

Oh, taste and see

The Lord is good.

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**  : ***THE NUNC DIMITTIS***

(*p. \_211\_\_ in hymnal*)

O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav’nly peace,

For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:

A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,

The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,

All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;

For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,

God’s triune name resounding Through all eternity.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
O God the Father, we thank You for the forgiveness and renewal of life You have given us in the precious body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Because we depend on You for everything, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be sent forth to declare the wonders of our Savior to the world He died to save; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** *Psalm 92:1–2*

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**People: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

Pastor: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

**People: and Your faithfulness by night.**

Pastor: The Most High God now sends us out to praise His name and declare His love wherever we go!  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “Abide O Dearest Jesus” [*LSB 919*]

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,

Among us with Your grace

That Satan may not harm us

Nor we to sin give place.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,

Among us with Your Word,

And thus now and hereafter

True peace and joy afford.

3 Abide with heav'nly brightness

Among us, precious Light;

Your truth direct and keep us

From error's gloomy night.

4 Abide with richest blessings

Among us, bounteous Lord;

Let us in grace and wisdom

Grow daily 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.

***WE’VE HEARD THE WORD, LET’S GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD!***

***Announcements!!!! ☺***

Prayers for our congregation (members in bold):

Family of the Week: **Pastor Harold & Alice Baldwin**

Birthdays: **Larry Riddle, Joanne Trantham**

Anniversaries: **Susan Muldoon**

For those who are ill or with health issues: **Pastor Harold Baldwin**, **Adella Schmidt**, **Alice Baldwin**, **Norma Pierson**, Gerry Brooks (Ruth’s husband), Larry Bennett (Earl Trantham’s friend), Doug Glenn (Joyce Avery’s son), Alan Reiman (Helen Hegland’s son), Russell Avery

For those recuperating: Janet Normandin (Sandi York’s daughter)

For those with cancer: Bill York (Sandi York’s husband), **Nancy Aguilar**, Lindsey Duncan (Susan Muldoon’s friend)

For our shut-ins: **Ida Parker, Charlie Bickel, Helen Hegland**

For our active duty & reservist military: **Arthur Bartlett, Mitchell Ogburn, Carrie Bravard, Kaylin Nance**, Brandon Austin (grandson of Carl & Sara Austin), Jake Willis (Carol Bravard’s grandson), Jonathan Fjare (Betty Lenz’s grandson), Michael Sommers (nephew of Ruth Brooks), Hunter Dick (John Holeton’s friend), Austin Allen (friend of Ogburn family), Zachary Bender (Darby Baldwin’s nephew)

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