



**VIDEO SERVICE**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**

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***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

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## 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 have 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.

### Opening Hymn Solo

“With the Lord Begin Your Task”

*sts. 1–2, 5*

1 With the Lord begin your task;  
Jesus will direct it.

For His aid and counsel ask;  
Jesus will perfect it.

Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise,  
And when day is ended,  
In His name then close your eyes;  
Be to Him commended.

2 Let each day begin with prayer,  
Praise, and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev’ry care;  
He is your salvation.

Morning, evening, and at night  
Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter’s might,  
With His presence cheer you.

5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev’ry task  
Be to You commended;  
May Your will be done, I ask,  
Until life is ended.

Jesus, in Your name begun  
Be the day’s endeavor;  
Grant that it may well be done  
To Your praise forever.

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### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C** to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

**P** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

**C** and Your faithfulness by night.

**P** The Most High God gathers us to praise His name and declare His love together!

### Confession and Absolution

*Psalm 32:1*

**P** 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 a moment of humble silence we acknowledge our need of forgiveness before Almighty God.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** 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 forgiveness You promise to those who repent. Amen.**

**P** “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 His sacrifice, God no longer counts your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers you as His child forever! As a called and 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.

**C** Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### Introit

*Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*

**P** How great are Your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

**C** **It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

**P** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night,

**C** **to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.**

**P** For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

**C** **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.**

**How great are Your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!**

### Prayer of the Day

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

### Old Testament Reading

✠ Israel’s Watchman ✠

*Ezekiel 33:7-9*

<sup>7</sup>“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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Anthem of Praise Solo

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

*sts. 1–2, 4*

1 Before You, Lord, we bow,  
Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below,  
Boundless in pow’r and love.

Our thanks we bring  
In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise  
To You, our King!

2 The nation You have blest  
May well Your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest,  
Protected by Your care.  
For this bright day,  
For this fair land—  
Gifts of Your hand—  
Our thanks we pay.

4 Earth, hear your Maker's voice;  
Your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice,  
And worship Him alone.  
Cast down your pride,  
Your sin deplore,  
And bow before  
The Crucified.

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## Epistle

✠ Submission to the Authorities ✠

*Romans 13:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

✠ Who is the Greatest? ✠

*Matthew 18:1-14*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup>"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>"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! <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>"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. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man came to save the lost.

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

<sup>15</sup>"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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### 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.**

### Sermon Hymn Solo

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

*sts. 1-2, 4*

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.

2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us when we go astray.

Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.

4 Early let us seek Your favor,  
Early let us do Your will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,  
With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.

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## Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

**Offerings**—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving also continues as an option for us all.*

### Lord's Prayer

#### Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

O God the Father, we thank You for assuring us by Your Word of the forgiveness and renewal of life You have given us through Your Son, our Savior. Because we depend on You for everything, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may go from here with confidence to declare the wonders of our Savior to the world for which He died; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### Benediction

*Psalm 92:1–2; Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C** to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

**P** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

**C** and Your faithfulness by night.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

#### Closing Hymn Solo

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

*sts. 1–4*

1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.

3 Only Jesus can impart  
Balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,  
Higher than the heav'ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me—wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Christ is all in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known,  
All my sorrows are His own.  
He sustains the hidden life  
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

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**Acknowledgments**

Vocal Solos by Martha Moeller

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Please consider how you may share your God-given gifts and interests in service to His church here at St Paul. Our elections for the church's boards and committees take place in November, and I'm sure there's a spot just for you. Of course, you may have other gifts and abilities that would be a blessing to the church as well, such as vocal or instrumental musical talent, technology skills, greeting, ushering, hospitality, communion set up, reading, or things you'd like to share that I haven't even thought of. Please contact Ruth Sievers about the St Paul elections in November at 708-952-9902 or call me at the office--708-423-1040 about any of this.

Thanks,  
Pastor John