

7th Sunday After Pentecost

July 8 & 11, 2021

The Season The Sundays after Pentecost focus on how Christians live in response to all that God has done for us. This part of the Church Year begins with a 6 week focus on Faith.

The Sunday Jesus preserves our faith even in the face of persecution. We have seen that the Christian suffers in the face of natural calamities and that he too must face death, both his own and that of those he loves. In circumstances such as these Jesus abides faithful to his Word. Now comes the suffering that is the result of our faithfulness to that Word, of translating faith into faithfulness. It is a suffering that is promised and that is most painful when it comes from those who have heard that Word with us. Even in the face of such offense he preserves faith in the Word by the Word.

Opening Hymn *How Precious Is the Book divine* Hymn 284



1 How pre - cious is the Book di - vine, By
2 Its light, de - scend - ing from a - bove Our
3 It shows to us our wan - d'ring ways And
4 This lamp through all the drear - y night Of



in - spi - ra - tion giv'n! Bright as a lamp its
gloom - y world to cheer, Dis - plays a Sav - ior's
where our feet have trod But brings to view the
life shall guide our way Till we be - hold the



doc - trines shine To guide our souls to heav'n.
bound - less love And brings his glo - ries near.
match - less grace Of a for - giv - ing God.
clear - er light Of an e - ter - nal day.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, abr., alt.
Tune: WALDER (CM) Johann J. Walder, 1750–1817.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran
Synod



Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel
to help people

Grow

in the Gospel
and

Go

with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank
God that you have
joined us at worship
today.

Restrooms are
located in the
basement. Hearing loop
headphones and Large
Print Hymnals are
available from an usher.

If your children need
to leave worship, please
take them to the
basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the presence
of God. He is present
among us in a special
way through his Word
and Sacrament. We
humbly acknowledge
our sin and rejoice in
the good news of
forgiveness through the
life and death of Christ.
This is the focus of our
worship.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: 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.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise

All Glory Be to God on High Hymn 263:1

I All glo - ry be to God on high, Who has our
race be - friend - ed! To us no harm shall
now come nigh; The strife at last is end - ed. The
Fa - ther's love, the Sav - ior's birth, Bring peace, good will, to
all the earth; Oh, thank him for his good - ness!

Text: Nikolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546, abr., st. 1-3; Mark A. Jeske, b. 1952, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.

St. 4 © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH SEI EHR (87 87 887) attr. Nikolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546, alt.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Ezekiel 2:1-3:4

Ezekiel's experience is not the exception but the paradigm. The rejection that Jesus experienced from his own ultimately turned into hatred and bitter hostility. That was the experience of all the apostles and prophets. People should know that a prophet has been among them from the faithfulness of the prophet to the Word and to the Savior, whether they like the message or not. For whether they like it or not, it remains the only message that saves. It saves even in the face of persecution from those who should know better. In the face of hostility and persecution there is one thing that sustains and strengthens us and gives us peace and joy: The same message of the gospel that provokes so much opposition is the source of all our own life and joy. Eat the scroll; savor its sweetness; devour it so that it becomes altogether a part of you!

2 He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." **2** As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

3 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. **4** The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' **5** And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them. **6** And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or be terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people. **7** You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. **8** But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

9 Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, **10** which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

3 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." **2** So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

3 Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

4 He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them. (NIV)

Refrain



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;*
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,*
for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me;*
my heart within me is dismayed.

Refrain

Answer me quickly, O LORD;*
do not hide your face from me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,*
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;*
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

**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.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com.
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Second Lesson

2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

Opposition and persecution are guaranteed wherever the Word is proclaimed in its truth and purity. Yet God promises his abiding and saving presence, even if the outward evidence seems to contradict that beautiful promise. Yes, even if the rescue is delayed to the point of death! Again notice that Paul mentions not just opposition from outside of the Church but especially notes the opposition that came from those who once heard and knew the truth. It is the latter that is the most damaging and to us personally the most painful. But in it all may we prove faithful to the Word, to all of it, that we may also know the faithfulness of God to that Word; he promises persecution, and he promises that his Word will nevertheless remain effective. He has promised that we ultimately we will be rescued to see his faithfulness in his own good time.

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

⁴ In 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: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For 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. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Happy are they who hear the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia. (Luke 8:15 cf. RSV)

Stand

Gospel

Mark 6:1-6

It is quite bad enough when Jesus is rejected by those who do not know him. But how painful to him, so much so that in his state of humiliation he is amazed by it, when those who should have been first to recognize him instead reject him. The world exchanges the Child in Bethlehem for Santa Claus and the Risen Christ for the Easter bunny. No surprise there. But what of those in our own churches and families who think they know him so well that they no longer know him at all? He could do nothing there in Nazareth because in their unbelief; no one asked him to do anything. And in our midst? Were he still in his state of humiliation, would he be surprised at us who have had his Word for so long and still think so little of it? On the other hand, those who follow him in faithfulness have a stumbling block in their path: the unfaithfulness of those who should know better and then their ultimate hostility to the pure teaching and living of his Word. Only that Word and reliance on it gets us past that stumbling block; Jesus promised such rejection, and his Word even in that regard has proven true.

⁶ Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?” ³ Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵ He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

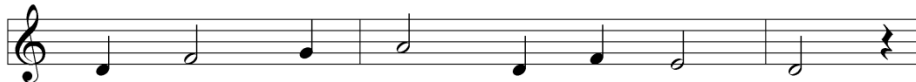
Apostles' Creed

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.

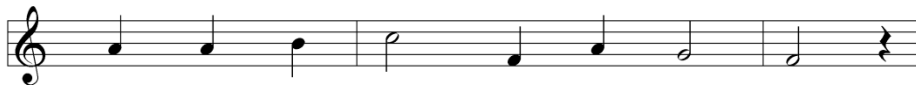
Be Seated

Hymn of the Day:

Preach You the Word Hymn 544



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love
4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched
5 Preach you the Word and plant it home



To those who like or like it not,
Your ser - vant bids us un - der - take:
Scat - ters a - broad the good - ly seed,
And some be choked and mat - ted flat,
And nev - er faint; the Har - vest - Lord



The Word that shall en - dure and stand
To preach your Word and nev - er ask
In - tent a - lone that there may be
The sow - er sows; his heart cries out,
Who gave the sow - er seed to sow



When flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
What pride - ful prof - it it may make.
The whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
"Oh, what of that, and what of that?"
Will watch and tend his plant - ed Word.

Sermon

Faith Overcomes Persecution

2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith and warns us against the dangers of not understanding what communion is, we practice close communion. WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor before communing.

Distribution

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

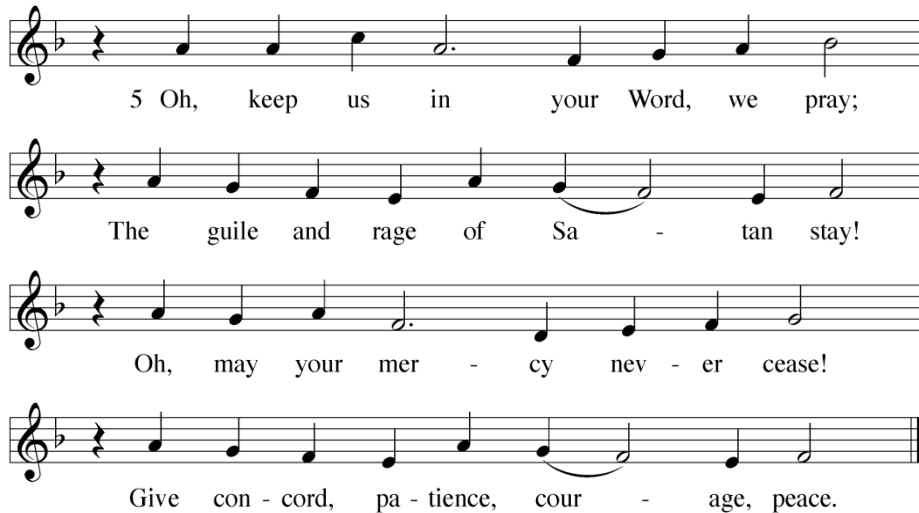
M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide Hymn 541:5,7



5 Oh, keep us in your Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may your mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace.

7 Oh, grant that in your holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord,
And when our journey's ending here,
Receive us into glory there.

Text: *Geistliche Psalmen*, Nürnberg, 1611, st. 1, 3; Nikolaus Selnecker, 1532–92, st. 2, 4-7, abr., adapt.; tr. composite.
Tune: ACH BLEIB BEI UNS (LM) *Geistliche Lieder*, Leipzig, 1589, alt.