

### Announcements

- Welcome to worship on this 18th Sunday after Pentecost!
  - It's also Presentation Sunday for our preschool, 1st grade, and 3rd grade students who will receive their prayer books, catechisms, and Bibles today.
- Important Upcoming Dates:
  - Eileen Bohlen's funeral was here on Friday -- our continued prayers for Bob, family, and friends
  - SPY Team this afternoon
  - Polka Service + Oktoberfest on October 10th -- spread the word!

### \*Confession + Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn | *Gather Us In*

ELW 532

### \*Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### \*Prayer of the Day

Generous God, **your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Children's Message

Psalm 19:7-14

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
**the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.**  
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
**the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**  
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
**the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**  
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
**sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**  
By them also is your servant enlightened,  
**and in keeping them there is great reward.**  
Who can detect one's own offenses?  
**Cleanse me from my secret faults.**  
Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
**then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**  
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
**O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

#### **Second Reading | James 5:13-20**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

#### **\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.*

*Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.*

*Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

#### **\*Gospel Reading | Mark 9:38-50**

John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day** | *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored*

#### Chorus

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love by our love  
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land [Chorus]*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each man's dignity, and save each man's pride [Chorus]*

*All praise to the Father from whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one [Chorus]*

## **Presentation of Prayer Books, Catechisms, & Bibles**

At this time, I invite all 3rd graders and their parents to stand as they receive their Bibles.

You probably don't remember it, but when you were baptized, your parents made some promises to you: to live with you among God's faithful people; to bring you Communion; to teach you the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the 10 Commandments; to nurture you in faith and prayer; and to place in your hands the holy scripture. Today, along with this community of faith, that promise is kept.

*(Give Bibles to youth)*

Let us bless these Bibles and the hands that now hold them: Inspiring God, these Bibles are a gift from you. May we read it often so that we can learn more about you, and so we can grow and pray and love like Jesus. Today we pray that you bless these Bibles and the hands that hold them. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

You may be seated. At this time I'd like to invite 1st graders and their parents to stand as they receive their Catechisms.

You also probably don't remember, but your parents made promises to you too during your baptism. They promised that they would bring you to worship here with us and bring you up for Communion. They promised to pray with you and for you. One day, they will place in your hands a Bible, but today, you're going to receive something a little smaller.

Today you will get a Catechism. In this little book are the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments. You can read this with your parents, your grandparents, your aunts and uncles, even your friends -- and you'll learn about how we love and pray to God -- and also how God loves us.

*(Give Catechisms to kids)*

Let's bless these Catechisms and the hands that now hold them: Gracious God, you teach us to pray, to love, and to listen. Help us to pray as Jesus prayed; to love as you love; and to listen to your word. Today we pray that you bless these Catechisms and the hands that hold them. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

You may be seated. And at this time I'd like to invite preschoolers and their parents to stand as they receive their prayer books.

How many of you remember when you were baptized? I don't -- but that was a loooooong time ago! When you were baptized, you came to church and the pastor poured water on your head -- then they drew a cross on your forehead. Do you remember that? Well, just

like the 3rd graders and the 1st graders, when you were baptized, your parents promised you some things. And one of those things was to teach you how to pray and to pray with you!

This is a prayer book. It will help you talk to God with different prayers -- because praying is just talking to God.

*(Give books to youth)*

Let's bless these prayer books and the hands that now hold them: Listening God, you teach us how to talk to you. Help us to talk with you everyday. Today we ask that you bless these prayer books and the hands that hold them. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Congratulations everyone! We hope you will use these books to learn more about God and about how much God loves you.

### **\*Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease, especially Dan Borchardt, Larry Zinke, Deloris Streich, Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, and Mildred Zimmerman, as well as the family and friends of Eileen Bohlen. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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.**

**Communion Distribution**

**Communion Blessing + Prayer**

May the body and blood...

Let us pray: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Offering + Sending Hymn** | *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* ELW 674

**\* Offertory** | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* ELW 884

**\*Offering Prayer + Final Blessing**

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**